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5-13-02

PATENT *Mallin*

Docket No.: 29273/559

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Yuko IWABUCHI et al.
SERIAL NO. : Unassigned
FILED : February 27, 2002
FOR : METHOD AND APPARATUS OF AN INSPECTION SYSTEM
USING AN ELECTRON BEAM
ART UNIT : 2881 (Anticipated)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the first line on page 1, insert the following:

A1 -- This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/883,184, filed June 19, 2001 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/131,383, filed August 7, 1998, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,348,690 on February 19, 2002. --

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to claim priority of copending Serial No. 09/883,184, filed June 19, 2001 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/131,383, filed August 7, 1998, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,348,690 on February 19, 2002.

BEST AVAILABLE

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